Production of bio-diesel

2005. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the regions of the country in which bio-diesel is being produced and used;

(b) the extent to which it may supplement our petroleum requirements and reduce consumption of fuel; and

(c) whether there is any possibility of undertaking a project of producing bio-diesel out of Jatropha and Pongomia plants?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) As per the Report of the Committee on Development of bio-fuel, Planning Commission 2003, bio-diesel in India from non-edible oils is being produced on pilot scale for Research and Development Division of Indian Oil Corporation, Indian Institute of Petroleum, Indian Institute of Technology, Punjab Agricultural University etc. are producing bio-diesel for R&D purposes.

(b) As a supplement for diesel, bio-diesel is technically capable for use in a blend up to 20 % with diesel without requiring any engine modification. However, at present, field trials are being conducted by oil marketing companies to use bio-diesel and diesel blend on buses in collaboration with Haryana Roadways and with Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport Undertaking (BEST), Mumbai. Field trials and engine tests on locomotives are also in progress. If the field trials establish the efficacy of bio-diesel and diesel blend, and indicate the possibility of economic pricing of these products, then large scale oil seeds plantation would have to be undertaken before commercial production of bio-diesel begins.

(c) Studies have been undertaken to explore the possibility of production of bio-diesel from non-edible oils like Jatropha curcas and Pongomia. The Ministry of Rural Development has been made the modal Ministry to implement the national mission on bio-diesel, and that Ministry has informed that a detailed project report has been recently prepared by the Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) for the purpose.